

# **Glossary of Acronyms and Terms**



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**AAUP:** American Association of University Professors, which conducts an annual salary survey. Its data is augmented with other organizations' data.

**Building Fees:** Building fees, in addition to operating fees, are the two components of statutory tuition. Building fees are used to cover debt service on the institution's buildings.

**Degree:** Any designation, appellation, letters, or words including but not limited to "associate," "bachelor," "master," "doctor," or "fellow" which signify or purport to signify satisfactory completion of the requirements of an academic program of study beyond the secondary level.

**Degrees granted:** Bachelor's, master's, doctorates, and first professional degrees are reported for the public and independent four-year institutions. Associate degrees are reported only for the public community and technical colleges. (Note: in Washington, professional degrees are awarded in five general areas: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and law.)

**Degree-granting institution:** An entity that offers educational credentials, instruction, or services prerequisite to or indicative of a degree.

**Distance learning:** Distance learning is the general term used to describe educational activities that occur when teachers and students are physically separated for at least part of the instructional time. Distance learning includes use of the Internet, satellite transmissions, cable networks, and other technologies.

**eLearning:** As compared to distance learning, e-learning is a more specific term applied to the use of digital and online technologies to provide educational opportunities any place, any time.

**Enrollment:** The number of individual students – i.e., headcount – for the fall quarter (or semester) of an academic year.

**Fiscal year:** The fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following calendar year. FY 2007 began on July 1, 2006.

**FTE:** Full-Time Equivalent. This is calculated by taking the total credit hours at a university/college and dividing by the normal full-time credit-hour load. In Washington, the normal full-time load is 15 credit hours for undergraduates and 10 credit hours for graduate students.

**Full-time/part-time enrollment:** According to IPEDS, a full-time undergraduate is enrolled for 12 or more credits per semester/quarter. A full-time graduate student is enrolled for 9 or more credits. These definitions apply to headcount enrollment at four-year institutions. At community and technical colleges, full-time enrollment (state-supported) is 10 or more credits.

**Gardner-Evans Bonds:** Gardner-Evans Bonds were authorized by the 2003 Legislature to help finance branch campus construction. These instruments helped the system rapidly ramp up facilities development between 2003 and 2009. The funds, totaling \$750 million, were earmarked for projects to modernize and restore existing facilities, as well as provide additional capacity for future enrollment demand. The authority to issue Gardner-Evans Bonds ended in 2009 when the Legislature chose not to renew it.

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**Geographic origin:** This category classifies students by their home address at the time of their initial application. In-state refers to those from Washington state; out-of-state includes other U.S. states, territories, and possessions; foreign refers to other countries.

**Global Challenge States (GCS):** The GCS are states that have been identified as having a high potential to succeed in today's knowledge-driven, global economy. Included are Washington, Massachusetts, California, New Jersey, Connecticut, Colorado, Virginia, and Maryland.

**GMAP:** Government Management Accountability and Performance. Program created by Governor Gregoire to hold state agencies accountable for delivering results. GMAP helps state agencies measure and improve their performance, and achieve results that matter to citizens.

**HECB:** The Higher Education Coordinating Board is a 10-member citizen board appointed by the Governor and approved by the state Senate. The HECB administers the state's student financial aid programs and provides strategic planning, coordination, monitoring, and policy analysis for higher education in Washington.

**HEER:** The Higher Education Enrollment Report is produced by the state Office of Financial Management (OFM). Data cover enrollment in the six public four-year institutions and are collected each term. This source is used for several tables. (Some minor differences exist between HEER and IPEDS headcount information due to different definitions.)

**IPD:** The Implicit Price Deflator is a common measure of inflation, calculated by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis. It measures the difference between the nominal value of all goods and services in the economy as compared to real value over time.

**IPEDS:** The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (which is part of the United States Department of Education) is a national survey conducted annually by the National Center for Education Statistics. It covers many areas including enrollment and degrees granted. All degree information in this report is taken from IPEDS. For enrollment, IPEDS is used whenever possible for the public four-year institutions; IPEDS is always used for enrollment in the independent institutions.

**LEAP:** The Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program committee data are used for information on State General Fund expenditures. LEAP was created by the Washington Legislature in 1977 to be the Legislature's independent source of information and technology for developing budgets, communicating budget decisions, tracking budget and revenue activity, consulting with legislative committees, and providing analysis on special issues.

**Level of enrollment:** The source of data is IPEDS. "Lower division" is calculated as all freshmen, all other first-year and all second-year students, and half of the unclassified undergraduates. "Upper division" are third-year students, fourth-year and beyond, and half of the unclassified undergraduates. "Graduate" and "professional" students are listed separately. In some cases, lower division and upper division are combined as "undergraduates," and a combined "post-baccalaureate" category includes graduate and professional enrollment.

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**MIS:** The Management Information System provides a series of reports on enrollment in the community and technical colleges. The data used in this document primarily came from the Student Management Information System (SMIS). These reports are prepared by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

**NCES:** The National Center for Education Statistics (part of the United States Department of Education) collects the yearly IPEDS data. NCES also provides state-by-state compilations of data, which were used to calculate participation rates and state rankings.

**NCHEMS:** The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems provides state-by-state data on enrollment; NCHEMS uses IPEDS data as their source. NCHEMS information was used by OFM to calculate college participation rates from 1981 through 1988.

**OFM:** The Office of Financial Management for the state of Washington. OFM provides HEER data, budget information, fiscal services, and policy support that the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies utilize to serve the citizens of Washington.

**Operating Fees:** Operating fees, in addition to building fees, are the two components of statutory tuition. Operating fees are primarily used to fund the instructional activities of an institution.

**OSPI:** The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington. OSPI issues a report annually on graduation and dropout rates for Washington's public high schools.

**PCHEES:** The Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System is maintained by the Office of Financial Management and is used to track enrollments at public four-year institutions for budgeting and research purposes.

**Race/ethnicity categories** – as defined by the U.S. Department of Education for the IPEDS survey.

- **Nonresident Alien:** A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.
- **Black, Non-Hispanic:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native (Native American):** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America or who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- **Asian or Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa, India, and Vietnam.
- **Hispanic/Latino(a):** A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- **White, Non-Hispanic:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).
- **Race/Ethnicity Unknown:** This category is used ONLY if the student did not select a racial/ethnic designation, and the postsecondary institution finds it impossible to place the student in one of the aforementioned racial/ethnic categories.

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**SBCTC:** The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is the source for enrollment data for these institutions. The State Board is required to provide general supervision and control over the state system of community and technical colleges.

**STEM:** STEM fields are currently identified as high demand fields, which include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Services and Activities Fees:** Services and activities fees are in addition to tuition charged to support student activities.

**Technology Fees:** Technology fees are charged at some institutions to support technology enhancements available to students.

**Tuition:** Statutory tuition consists of two components: operating fees, which are primarily used to fund instructional activities of an institution, and building fees, which are used to cover debt service on the institution's buildings.

**University Centers:** University centers house educational programs offered by one or more baccalaureate institutions whose main campuses are elsewhere in Washington or in another state. Centers are often located on community college campuses.

**WASL:** The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) was the state's primary tool for assessing academic progress in the K-12 system from the spring of 1997 until October 2009. The WASL has been replaced by two new assessment tools – the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE).

**WFAA:** The Washington Financial Aid Association is a professional membership organization of individuals whose aim is to promote higher education through the availability, support, and administration of student financial assistance programs.

**WICHE:** The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted in the 1950s by western states. WICHE is an interstate compact created by formal legislative action of the states and the U.S. Congress. Fifteen states are members of WICHE. Three gubernatorial-appointed commissioners from each state govern WICHE. WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West.

**WTECB/WTB:** The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board advises the Governor on workforce development policy, ensures that the state's workforce preparation services and programs work together, and evaluates performance. The Board also advocates for the non-baccalaureate training and education needs of the workers who account for about 75 percent of Washington state's workforce.